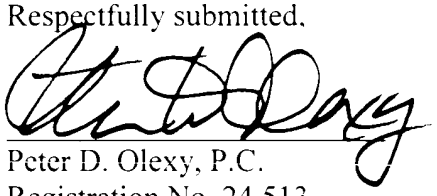
REMARKS

Further to Applicants Response of November 5, 2002 the claims are amended as stated at page 1 (claims 6 and 8) and page 2 (claims 1, 6, 8, 18 and 21).

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 2-5, 7 and 9 are canceled.

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A melt-blown, non-woven fabric having an average diameter of 10 μm or less comprising polyarylene sulfide having a branched structure and a non-Newtonian coefficient of 1.05-1.20.

6. (Twice Amended) The ~~melt-down~~melt-blown, non-woven fabric having an average diameter of 10 μm or less according to claim 1, wherein said polyarylene sulfide is a reaction product of an alkaline metal sulfide, a dihaloaromatic compound and a polyhaloaromatic compound having 3 or more halogen substituents in one molecule, wherein 0.01-0.3 mol %, based on 100 mol % of said alkaline metal sulfide, of said polyhaloromatic compound is added in a reaction to form the reaction product.

8. (Twice Amended) The ~~melt-down~~melt-blown, non-woven fabric having an average diameter of 10 μm or less according to claim 18, wherein said polyarylene sulfide is subjected to a thermal oxidation cross-linking treatment.

18. (Amended) A melt-blown, non-woven fabric having an average diameter of 10 μm or less comprising polyarylene sulfide having a cross-linked structure and a non-Newtonian coefficient of 1.05-1.20.

21. (Amended) The ~~melt-down~~melt-blown, non-woven fabric having an average diameter of 10 μm or less according to claim 1 which has a non-Newtonian coefficient of 1.06-1.19.